



11-13-07

DPW

Express Mail Label No. EV683296188US  
Attorney Docket No. 11049.02

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Daniel F. Williams et al.

Appln. No.: 09/944,324

Filed: August 30, 2001

Patent No.: 6,952,678 B2

Grant Date: October 4, 2005

For: METHOD, APPARATUS, AND MANUFACTURE  
FOR FACILITATING A SELF-ORGANIZING  
WORKFORCE

Confirmation No.: 1876

Group Art Unit: 3621

Examiner: Hewitt II, Calvin L.

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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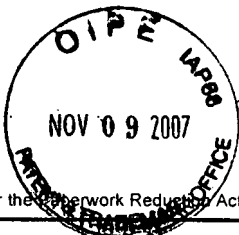
The undersigned hereby certifies that the following documents:

1. Request for Withdrawal as Attorney or Agent and Change of Correspondence Address(1 page) with an Index for Exhibits A, B and C (1 page), and Exhibits A (9 pages), B (3 pages) and C (2 pages) attached;
2. Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail (1 page); and
3. Return Card,

relating to the above application, were deposited as "Express Mail," Mailing Label No. EV683296188US with the United States Postal Service, addressed to Mail Stop Post Issue, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2007.

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*Jane Kalis*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Jane Kalis*  
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DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP  
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PTO/SB/83 (01-06)

Approved for use through 12/31/2008. OMB 0651-0035

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**REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL  
AS ATTORNEY OR AGENT  
AND CHANGE OF  
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

Application Number	09/944,324
Filing Date	August 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Daniel F. Williams
Art Unit	3621
Examiner Name	Hewitt II, Calvin L.
Attorney Docket Number	11049.02

To: Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Please withdraw me as attorney or agent for the above identified patent application, and

- ☐ all the attorneys/agents of record.
- ☐ the attorneys/agents (with registration numbers) listed on the attached paper(s), or
- ☒ the attorneys/agents associated with Customer Number

NOTE: This box can only be checked when the power of attorney of record in the application is to all the practitioners associated with a customer number.

The reasons for this request are: Original grant of USPN 6,952,678, explanatory letter requesting instructions for payment of maintenance fees and if AskMe Corporation, Assignee, wishes to close their file with Dorsey & Whitney LLP, were sent on 8/29/07 to AskMe via FedEx. A reminder was sent to Ms. Lee at AskMe via e-mail. AskMe has not responded and withdrawal is requested due to lack of communication. Please see Exhibits A thru C attached.

**CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

1. ☐ The correspondence address is NOT affected by this withdrawal.
2. ☒ Change the correspondence address and direct all future correspondence to: AskMe Corporation  
Attn: Ms. Shirley Lee  
15395 SE 30th Place, Suite 220  
Bellevue, WA 98007
- ☐ The address associated with Customer Number:

OR

<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Country			
Telephone	Email		
Signature			
Name	Gregory P. Durbin	Registration No.	42,503
Date	November 9, 2007	Telephone No.	303-629-4500

NOTE: Withdrawal is effective when approved rather than when received. Unless there are at least 30 days between approval of withdrawal and the expiration date of a time period for response or possible extension period, the request to withdraw is normally disapproved.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.36. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



**INDEX for EXHIBITS A, B and C**

**(SEE HIGHLIGHTED TEXT ON EXHIBITS)**

EXHIBIT A	Two letters, both dated August 29, 2007, one transmitting original patent grant and requesting instructions from AskMe Corporation as to Certificate of Correction, reissue application, and representation by Dorsey & Whitney; and the other letter as to monitoring and payment of U.S. and foreign annuities.
EXHIBIT B	Proof of delivery by FedEx to AskMe Corporation of letters and the enclosures forwarded with the letters. Delivery signed for by V. Rana.
EXHIBIT C	Two e-mails exchanged with Ms. Shirley Lee of AskMe requesting correct delivery information and reminders to respond to our request for instructions.

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1 From Please print and press hard.

Date 8-27-07 Sender's FedEx Account Number 1605-0159-6

Sender's Name Greg. P. Durbin Phone (303) 629-3400

Company DORSEY & WHITNEY

Address 370 17TH ST STE 4700 Denver/Floor/Suite/Room

City DENVER State CO ZIP 80202

2 Your Internal Billing Reference 460319-2, 3048

3 To Recipient's Name Shirley Lee Phone (425) 564-9061

Company Ask Me Corporation

Address 15395 SE 30th Place Suite 220 We cannot deliver to P.O. boxes or P.O. ZIP codes.

City Bellevue State WA ZIP 98007 Denver/Floor/Suite/Room

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 Delivery commitment may be later in some areas.

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☐ **HOLD Weekday** ☐ **HOLD Saturday**  
 Available ONLY for FedEx Priority Overnight and FedEx 2Day to select ZIP codes.  
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 Total Packages **1** Total Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Total Declared Value\* **\$ 400.00**  
 FedEx Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Packages \_\_\_\_\_ Total Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Total Declared Value\* \_\_\_\_\_  
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**8 Release Signature** Sign to authorize delivery without obtaining signature.  
 \*Our liability is limited to \$100 unless you declare a higher value. See back for details.  
 By signing you authorize us to deliver this shipment without obtaining a signature and agree to indemnify and hold us harmless from any resulting claims.  
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447

GREGORY P. DURBIN  
(303) 629-3427  
durbin.greg@dorsey.com

August 29, 2007

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

**INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED  
BY September 15, 2007**

AskMe Corporation  
Attn: Ms. Shirley Lee  
15395 SE 30th Place  
Suite 220  
Bellevue, WA 98007

**Re: United States Patent For METHOD, APPARATUS, AND MANUFACTURE  
FOR FACILITATING A SELF-ORGANIZING WORKFORCE**  
**Patent No.: 6,952,678**  
**Issue Date: October 4, 2005**  
**Application No.: 09/944,324**  
**Filing Date: August 30, 2001**  
**Our Ref. No.: 460319-2; 1483/US/1 (formerly 11049.02)**

Dear Shirley:

We are pleased to enclose herewith the original grant of the U.S. Letters Patent referenced above. The term for the above-referenced patent was extended by 859 days. Therefore this patent is for a term of 20 years from the filing date of the application and an additional 859 days (i.e., January 6, 2024). This Patent should be preserved in your permanent files. Enclosed are two additional copies of the patent.

**MARKING**

Articles covered by any claim of this patent, and manufactured or sold by you or your licensees, on and after the grant date, should be marked with the patent number. This marking should appear directly on the article or, where appropriate, on the package or label. In the absence of such marking, damages may not be recovered from an infringer unless actual notice is given of the patent and his infringement of it.

**MAINTENANCE FEES**

There are three maintenance fees that are scheduled to be paid throughout the life of the patent. The first maintenance fee is payable three years after the grant and due no later than the fourth anniversary of the grant date. The second maintenance fee is payable seven years after the grant and must be paid no later than the eighth anniversary of the grant date. The third fee is payable 11 years after the grant and, again, must be paid no later than the twelfth anniversary.

These fees can be paid without a surcharge within the first six months after they become payable, or a surcharge can be paid during the next six month grace period. Failure to pay the maintenance fees by the end of the grace period will result in lapse of the patent.

Please note the dates when these three maintenance fees are payable:

1 <sup>st</sup> Maintenance Fee (3 ½ years)	April 4, 2009
2 <sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Fee (7 ½ years)	April 4, 2013
3 <sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Fee (11 ½ years)	April 4, 2017

Please also mark your long term calendar to remind yourself of these dates.

We recently sent a letter to Mr. Ramesh Parameswaran regarding payment of maintenance fees/annuities on issued United States and foreign patents. The letter was returned to us as undeliverable. We have revised the letter with your name and address and enclose it herewith. Please mark the attachment to the letter in the appropriate place, sign and return the attachment to us. In short, Dorsey & Whitney will no longer pay these fees. We intend to transfer payment obligations to Computer Patent Annuities Limited ("CPA") and the due dates for payment of all these fees will be removed from our docket and transferred to CPA. CPA is a company that specializes in the docketing and payment of maintenance fees and annuities.

#### **CORRECTION TO PATENT**

We have proofread the patent and found that the claims, although all claims are present, are not numbered in accordance with amendments made during the prosecution of the patent in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. We suggest that you read the patent carefully and, if you note any other errors, please bring them to our attention. We can file a request for a Certificate of Correction in order to renumber the claims. A new printed patent will not be issued; the Certificate of Correction will be attached to the current patent as printed. Unless instructed by **September 15, 2007**, we will not submit a petition for a Certificate of Correction.

#### **REISSUE**

Under certain circumstances it is possible to file a reissue patent application based on your issued patent. More particularly, a reissue application may be filed under 35 U.S.C. § 251 whenever any patent is, through error without any deceptive intention, deemed wholly or partly inoperative or invalid. For example, a reissue application may be filed if there is a defect in the specification or the drawings, or the patentee has claimed more or less than he had a right to claim in the patent. As such, it is sometimes possible to broaden or narrow the scope of the claims of a patent in a reissue application. However, a reissue application may broaden the scope of the claims only if applied for within two years of the issue date of the patent. A reissue application which seeks to narrow the scope of the claims may be filed at any time during the term of the patent. Please note that no new matter may be introduced into a reissue application at any time.

The deadline for filing a broadening reissue is **October 4, 2007**. We will not file a broadening reissue unless specifically instructed to do so by **September 15, 2007**.

AskMe Corporation  
Attn: Ms. Shirley Lee  
August 29, 2007  
Page 3



**GENERAL MATTERS**

Please keep us informed of any change in your address and/or any change in the status of this patent.

Please acknowledge receipt of this patent and give us instructions as to the above matters by signing and marking the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to us. We are happy to have been of service, and if you have any questions on the foregoing, please let us know. If you decide not to use our services in connection with any of the above or have retained other patent counsel, please let us know as we are proceeding to close our file.

**END OF REPRESENTATION**

We will continue to represent you if you decide to pursue either the Certificate of Correction or reissue. Otherwise, this is our last communication to you and we will no longer provide AskMe Corporation with legal services and pay any out-of-pocket costs. If you have found new patent counsel and wish to have this file transferred to your new attorney(s), please provide us with the name and address so that the file can be forwarded to the appropriate attorneys. We will also file a withdrawal notice with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. As you are aware, Dorsey & Whitney LLP has nor is handling any other matters for AskMe Corporation.

It has been our pleasure to work with AskMe. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Gregory P. Durbin

GPD:rmm  
Enclosures

1. RECEIVED original Letters Patent for U.S. Patent No. 6,952,678 B2 (Dorsey & Whitney Docket No. 460319-2; 1483/US/1 (formerly 11049.02) this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.
2. Please file a Certificate of Correction on behalf of AskMe Corporation. YES\_\_\_\_, NO\_\_\_\_.
3. Please file a request for a reissue application. YES\_\_\_\_, NO\_\_\_\_.
4. If AskMe Corporation does not pursue a Certificate of Correction or reissue of this patent, AskMe Corporation understands and accepts that Dorsey & Whitney is no longer responsible for the prosecution or maintenance of the file relating to U.S. Patent No. 6,952,678 or the patent itself.

ASKME CORPORATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

August 29, 2007

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS – SIGNATURE REQUESTED**

AskMe Corporation  
Attn: Ms. Shirley Lee  
15395 SE 30<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 220  
Bellevue, WA 98007

Re: Monitoring and Payment of United States and Foreign Annuities

Dear Ms. Lee:

As you may know, the Patent Offices in the United States and most foreign countries require the payment of periodic maintenance or annuity fees to keep issued patents in force and in some cases pending foreign patent applications. In the past, we have provided the service of notifying clients when fees are due and assisted in the payment of the fees. Dorsey & Whitney LLP has made the decision that the firm will no longer monitor or handle the payment of maintenance fees on United States patents or foreign issued patent annuities. We have come to the conclusion that our clients can obtain this service on a more cost-effective basis from 3<sup>rd</sup> party or non-law firm organizations that specialize in maintenance fee and annuity payment services. We will for the near future, continue to process foreign pending patent application annuity fees, and maintain our current process with you regarding payment of those annuities until issuance of a patent. We will be transitioning these services too, and will keep you informed.

This letter is to inform you that, effective **January 1, 2008**, Dorsey & Whitney LLP is planning to transfer payment obligations for granted United States patent maintenance fees and foreign issued patent annuities to CPA, a different outside service provider of your choice, or back to your organization to be handled in house. We ask for your assistance in this effort. As part of Dorsey & Whitney LLP's overall plan, by **January 1, 2008**, Dorsey & Whitney LLP will no longer process United States maintenance fee and foreign annuities on granted patents for any client.

As part of this transition, we have been in discussion with Computer Patent Annuities Limited ("CPA") regarding handling these services. CPA presently handles approximately 1,000,000 renewal payments each year. In addition, they have relationships with patent and trademark offices in every country in the world and charge a service fee based on authorization and actual payment of any required fees. In an effort to ensure that your patent assets continue to be maintained at the highest standards, we strongly suggest that you retain a professional service firm to monitor and pay fees and annuities on your behalf with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and other Patent Offices throughout the world.

If you decide to use CPA's payment and monitoring services, we will request that CPA set up an account for you. As part of transferring your work to CPA, you will receive a lower rate than Dorsey & Whitney currently charges, and an account manager. These are special features typically reserved for larger CPA clients. In addition, we will assist in the transition by electronically transmitting the necessary data to CPA to set up your account. The physical



AskMe Corporation  
Attn: Ms. Shirley Lee  
August 29, 2007  
Page 2

patent file will continue to be maintained by Dorsey & Whitney LLP. The service will begin for all maintenance and annuity fees (both United States and foreign) due on or after **January 1, 2008**. CPA will review this information and will coordinate with Dorsey & Whitney LLP to ensure the safe transfer of your portfolio to their system.

Please review the list in the attached Appendix against your records to confirm its accuracy and completeness, and contact us if we have incorrect or missing information.

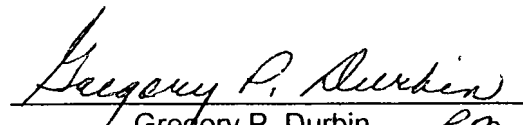

Please note that in order to facilitate this transfer of maintenance and annuity fee responsibility, the enclosed confirmation letter should be signed and returned to my attention by **September 7, 2007**. Dorsey & Whitney LLP will facilitate the transfer of all applicable data to CPA or to any organization you choose. Once the data has been successfully transferred to CPA, or the organization you choose, it will assume responsibility for advising you of upcoming patent renewal reminders and making payments pursuant to your instructions. CPA will charge a service fee based on authorization of actual payment and will contact you directly for further instructions in this regard.

We value you as a Dorsey & Whitney LLP client and will continue to be available to you as you have needs for patent applications, prosecutions, licensing, intellectual property audits, assistance in development of programs to plan patenting strategies, and litigation concerning infringement or licensing disputes and other intellectual property matters.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you in your patent matters. We look forward to receiving your instructions by **September 7, 2007**, on how you would like to proceed with monitoring and handling of your annuity and/or maintenance matters. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Konnie Love (IP Prosecution Manager) at 612-492-6845 or myself at 303-629-3427 or by email at [durbin.greg@dorsey.com](mailto:durbin.greg@dorsey.com).

Very truly yours,

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

By:   
Gregory P. Durbin 

Enclosures:

1. Appendix and List of Issued Patents
2. Confirmation Letter

AskMe Corporation  
Attn: Ms. Shirley Lee  
August 29, 2007  
Page 3

RE: Monitoring and Payment of Patent Maintenance Fees and Annuities for AskMe Corporation.

Please select the option that will best meet your organization's needs and return this page to us by September 7, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_ Option 1: Please instruct Computer Patent Annuities ("CPA") to set up a quarterly instruct account for our organization and add all cases on the attached appendix. For any United States patents, Dorsey & Whitney LLP will file a paper designating CPA, as the recipient of maintenance fee correspondence from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Dorsey & Whitney LLP will continue to provide any data updates and changes of our portfolio to CPA during the initial data transfer. All maintenance fee and annuity fee reminders from CPA will be sent directly to the attention of the person signing this letter on our behalf. Under this option we need to advise CPA of the cases we choose to maintain. We understand that for this option we will need to pay CPA rather than Dorsey & Whitney LLP for these services, and Dorsey & Whitney LLP assumes no responsibility for monitoring or payment of any maintenance fees or annuity fees due.

\_\_\_\_\_ Option 2: **Please do not instruct Computer Patent Annuities ("CPA") to set up an account for our organization or add all cases on the attached sheet.** The maintenance fees and annuities for the cases on the attached sheet and cases issuing in the future will be handled by our organization either internally or through a different outside service provider which we will arrange for on our own. For any United States patents, Dorsey & Whitney LLP will file a paper designating our organization, or other designee, as the recipient of maintenance fee correspondence from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. We understand that with this option, neither CPA nor Dorsey & Whitney LLP assumes responsibility for monitoring or payment of any maintenance fees or annuity fees due on or after January 1, 2008.

AskMe Corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Shirley Lee  
Title:

AskMe Corporation  
Attn: Ms. Shirley Lee  
August 29, 2007  
Page 4

### Appendix

A list of any United States and foreign issued cases we are currently monitoring for you, and for which any maintenance fee or annuity fee payments are due on or after January 1, 2008, is shown below. Annuity agents such as CPA require certain information regarding each patent property in order to pay associated annuities and maintenance fees. That data may generally be obtained manually by referring to the patent; however, we currently store much, if not all, of that data in our computer docketing system.

Thus, for your convenience, we have made arrangements to provide this data to CPA electronically. CPA will review this information and will coordinate with Dorsey & Whitney LLP to ensure the safe transfer of your portfolio to their system. Once this review is complete, CPA will forward us the final version of the data at which point we will contact you and you will be required to confirm its accuracy and completeness. It is your responsibility to confirm this information against your records and inform us of any discrepancies you find.

CPA will only become responsible for payment after all applicable data has been transferred, you have confirmed the accuracy of the applicable case data and CPA has received an instruction to pay from you. CPA will contact you directly for all maintenance and annuity fee instructions and for payment of all maintenance and annuity fee invoices. All new case data and addendum to any existing case data will be provided directly to CPA from Dorsey & Whitney LLP. Thus, upon issuance of pending United States or foreign applications, Dorsey & Whitney LLP will contact CPA directly to have them add the newly issued patent to the list of patents for which CPA is responsible for paying maintenance and annuity fees and provide any necessary data for CPA to do so.

#### List of Issued Patents

# AskMe Corporation

## Patent Status Report sorted by Docket ID with Client Reference

DOCKET ID	TECHNOLOGY/INVENTION TITL	COUNTRY	CLIENT-MATTER	STATUS	TYPE	APP. DATE	GRANT DATE	Client Reference
			FORMER ID	SUBSTATUS	SUBTYPE	APP NUMBER	NUMBER	FOREIGN ASSOCIATE
1483/US/1	Method, Apparatus, and Manufacture for Facilitating a Self- Organizing Workforce	United States of America	460319-00002 DV-11049/US/02	Granted	Patent Non-provisional application	8/30/2001 09/944324	10/4/2005 6952878	


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## Track Shipments Detailed Results

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**Tracking number** 831772321635  
**Signed for by** V.RANA  
**Ship date** Aug 29, 2007  
**Delivery date** Aug 30, 2007 10:01 AM

**Reference** 460319-21 3048  
**Delivered to** Receptionist/Front Desk  
**Service type** Priority Pak  
**Weight** 2.0 lbs.

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	5:26 AM	At dest sort facility	SEATTLE, WA
	3:57 AM	Departed FedEx location	MEMPHIS, TN
Aug 29, 2007	1:01 AM	Arrived at FedEx location	MEMPHIS, TN
	7:34 PM	Left origin	DENVER, CO
	5:53 PM	Picked up	DENVER, CO

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<input type="text"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	English			
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Telephone: 901-369-3600

September 17, 2007

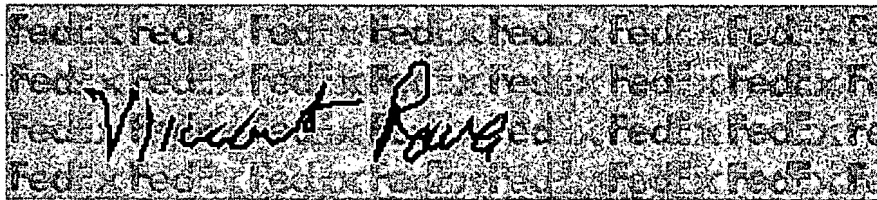
Dear Customer:

The following is the proof of delivery you requested with the tracking number **831772321635**.

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**Delivery Information:**

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<b>Signed for by:</b>	V.RANA		
<b>Service type:</b>	Priority Pak		



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**Shipping Information:**

<b>Tracking number:</b>	831772321635	<b>Ship date:</b>	Aug 29, 2007
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<b>Recipient:</b>		<b>Shipper:</b>	
US		US	
<b>Reference</b>			
			460319-21 3048

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**McAloon, Rita**

---

**From:** McAloon, Rita  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2007 10:36 AM  
**To:** 'shirley@askme.com'  
**Cc:** Durbin, Greg  
**Subject:** U.S. Patent No. 6,952,678, AskMe Corporation

Dear Shirley:

We forwarded the above-referenced patent grant to your attention on August 29, 2007, along with a letter asking for instructions as to four separate items listed in that letter. The instructions were requested by a deadline of September 15, 2007. We have not heard from you and are sending this e-mail as a reminder. We will not be sending any further reminders to you.

Please let us hear from you. Thank you.

Rita

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**Rita M. McAloon** | Legal Secretary - Patents | ( ))) **DORSEY**  
Assistant to Gregory P. Durbin  
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9/19/2007



**McAloon, Rita**

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**From:** Durbin, Greg  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2007 3:22 PM  
**To:** McAloon, Rita  
**Subject:** RE: AskMe Corp

Sure, a reminder does not hurt so long as we indicate that we will not be providing any further reminders

-----Original Message-----

**From:** McAloon, Rita  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2007 2:31 PM  
**To:** Durbin, Greg  
**Subject:** AskMe Corp

We asked for a decision from AskMe re the following items by 9/15/07. I haven't heard anything. Have you? Do you want a reminder e-mail sent to Shirley sometime this week?

1. RECEIVED original Letters Patent for U.S. Patent No. 6,952,678 B2 (Dorsey & Whitney Docket No. 460319-2; 1483/US/1 (formerly 11049.02) this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.
2. Please file a Certificate of Correction on behalf of AskMe Corporation. YES\_\_\_\_, NO\_\_\_\_.
3. Please file a request for a reissue application. YES\_\_\_\_, NO\_\_\_\_.
4. If AskMe Corporation does not pursue a Certificate of Correction or reissue of this patent, AskMe Corporation understands and accepts that Dorsey & Whitney is no longer responsible for the prosecution or maintenance of the file relating to U.S. Patent No. 6,952,678 or the patent itself.

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